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The Public Schools and Women in Office Service. Edited by MAY ALLISON. Boston, Women's Educational and Industrial Union, 1915.—xv, 187 pp.

This book is the latest contribution to the Studies of the Economic Relations of Women which have been made during the last few years by students in the research department of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union. It is a study in vocational education. It aims to present the business, economic, and social conditions which confront the public commercial high school and which should determine the formulation of its curriculum.

Nine of the eleven Boston high schools have commercial courses including classes in phonography, typewriting, and bookkeeping. In 1912-1913, nearly two-thirds of the girls enrolled elected one or more of these technical subjects. In sections of the city where economic pressure is greatest, as many as four-fifths of the girls were in the commercial classes. Almost as large a number are enrolled in the evening commercial high schools. From the standpoint of the high school, therefore, it is evident that the program for the commercial class is an especially important one if the needs of the pupils are to be adequately met. It must also be directed, as the report points out, towards a pre-conceived end of efficiency in useful employment.

In order to accomplish this end, the school must have information on the kinds of office work open to women; the requirements of education, maturity, technique and personality requisite for the different occupations; the opportunities and conditions determining advancement; and the openings for and requisites of the beginner. This information the report furnishes in a chapter on the character of office service.

The economic importance of adequate preparation for office work is convincingly set forth in the chapter on wages. In the tables that are given to show the relation between wages and schooling, almost without exception wages rise with educational equipment. Experience is important, of course, but emphasis is laid upon the necessity of a well-balanced education to supplement good technical training if success in office service is to be assured. "Those without the opportunities for obtaining these requisites," the report goes on to say, "would better be directed into some occupation where they would have greater opportunity for success."

A chapter on home life and responsibilities furnishes data on the economic and social background of the girls who attend commercial

classes. On a basis of such information, schools may modify their program to meet the needs of special localities. It must be flexible enough to adapt itself on the one hand to a district where large numbers of the pupils are of foreign-born parents, and on the other to a neighborhood where the girls come from native-born families representing greater knowledge of American social and business customs. The study points out that the economic condition of most of the girls is such as to make it practicable for the schools to advise both parents and daughters of the vital importance of prolonged education as a training for stenography and bookkeeping. This is especially necessary in view of the fact that many of the pupils in the evening schools have had only a grammar-school education.

The book closes with a series of concrete recommendations to the educator and placement agency; to parent and child; and to the business man. The substantial principles of the report have been embodied already in the new Clerical School of Boston opened last September. The method of study and the general principles formulated will be of interest and suggestive value to many educators elsewhere who are trying to meet the needs of the large numbers who come to their commercial classes.

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Livelihood and Poverty. By A. L. BOWLEY and A. R. BURNETT-HURST. With an Introduction by R. H. TAWNEY. The Ratan Tata Foundation. London, G. Bell and Sons, 1915.—222 pp.

The object of the Ratan Tata Foundation, of which the headquarters are at the School of Economics, Clare Market, Kingsway, London, W. C., is to promote the study of methods of preventing and relieving poverty and destitution. The Foundation makes inquiries into wages and cost of living, methods of preventing and diminishing unemployment and measures affecting the health and well-being of the wage-earning classes. The results are published in pamphlet or book form. In addition to disseminating information, the officers of the Foundation "will, as far as is in their power, send replies in individual inquiries relating to questions of poverty and destitution, their causes, prevention, and relief, whether at home or abroad." *Livelihood and Poverty* is the sixth in the series of the publications of the Foundation, and it is an admirable example of the work which the Foundation is undertaking.

Northampton with its shoe industry, Warrington with its iron and steel, its chemical and its brewing industries, Stanley, as a center of the